

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3792

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 20361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN, GW

SUBJECT: CONTINUITIES IN THAI FOREIGN POLICY

REF: STATE 288938

1. WE PASSED CONTENTS OF REFTEL TO STEGER, CHIEF, SEA, FONOFF ON DECEMBER 2. HE WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE, SINCE THAI CHIEF OF WEST EUROPEAN OFFICE IN FONOFF IS CURRENTLY VISITING BONN.

2. STEGER DESCRIBED THE VISITING THAI OFFICIAL AS "RATHER STIFF" TOWARD HANOI. HE PROFESSED TO BE TROUBLED BY VIETNAMESE PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS AND GENERALLY SUSPICIOUS OF VIETNAMESE INTENTIONS TOWARD

THAILAND. STEGER SAID HE TRIED TO ALLAY THE THAI'S FEARS, ARGUING THAT HANOI WANTS TO BUILD CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. STEGER'S THEORY IS BASED ON WHAT HE SAW AND HEARD IN HANOI DURING HIS VISIT LAST JANUARY TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AS WELL AS SUBSEQUENT EXPERIENCE OF FRG EMBASSY IN HANOI. STEGER DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT HIS ARGUMENTS MADE MUCH OF AN IMPRESSION, ALTHOUGH HE WAS ASSURED THAT THAILAND STILL WANTS TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS WITH HANOI.
STOESSEL

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